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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,097	10/23/2003	Matthew Rimer	MS306224.1/40062.216US01	8463
23552	7590	08/03/2006	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			PARDO, THUY N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2165	

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/693,097

Applicant(s)

RIMER ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy N. Pardo

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 14-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,8,9,14,15 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-7,16,17 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/29/2004</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's response to examiner's election/restriction requirement on May 17, 2006 has been reviewed. Group I consisting of claims 1-9 and 14-19 has been elected, and Group II consisting of claims 10-13 and 20-35 has been canceled.

2. Claims 1-9 and 14-19 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Himmel et al. (Hereinafter "Himmel") US Patent No. 6,237,035 in view of Mattis et al. (Hereinafter "Mattis") US Patent No. 6,292,880.

As to claim 1, Himmel teaches the invention substantially as claimed, comprising:
maintaining in the first object identity information identifying the principal [trand;
abstract; col. 5, lines 49 to col. 6, lines 7];

searching a principal data store for principal data identified by the identity information;
instantiating a principal object having principal data identified by the identifying information
[compares a tranid returned in a user request to the record value, see the abstract; 504 of fig. 5];
and

returning a pointer to the principal object [put tranid into URL for the request and return
page to user, 404 of fig. 4] or, if more than one principal is found in the data store having the
principal data, returning an error [if previously processed, an error is returned to the requestor,
see the abstract; col. 8, lines 62].

However, Himmel does not explicitly teach invoking a method in an API with the
identity information as an argument, under control of the method although it has the same
functionality of detecting duplicate objects [see the abstracts of Himmel and Mattis]. Mattis
teaches invoking a method in an API with the identity information as an argument, under control
of the method [using API to perform a function call as parameter values derived from a request,
col. 7, lines 45-57].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art
at the time of the invention to add the limitation of Himmel to the system of Mattis as an
essential means to provide a sufficient flexibility to meet the needs of media types and protocols.

As to claim 2, Himmel and Mattis teach the invention substantially as claimed. Mattis
further teaches that the identity information is an identity reference identifying an identity claim
of the principal and invoking comprises invoking the findbyidentity method in a principal API

Art Unit: 2165

exposed by the principal data store with the identity reference as an argument [col. 7, lines 45-57].

As to claim 8, Himmel and Mattis teach the invention substantially as claimed. Mattis further teaches storing in the principal data store, principal data including at least one identity claim for every principal known to the computer system [fig. 1-4B; col. 8, lines 45-65].

As to claim 9, Himmel and Mattis teach the invention substantially as claimed. Himmel further teaches that the principal object includes at least one identity claim object, and the principal object and identity claim object expose application programming interfaces that have the findbyidentity method [tranid, col. 6, lines 8-67].

As to claims 14, 15 and 18, all limitations of these claims have been addressed in the analysis above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-7, 16-17 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As to claims 3 and 16, the limitations that the identity information is an identity reference identifying an identity claim of the principal and invoking comprises invoking a findbyidentity method in a principal API exposed by the principal data store with the ItemContext as a first argument, and identity reference as a second argument; and under control of the findbyidentity

Art Unit: 2165

method, searching a principal data store identified by the ItemContext argument for a principal having the identity claim; instantiating a principal object for the principal having the identity claim; returning a pointer to the principal object; or , if more than one principal is found in the data store, returning an error, taken together with other limitations of claims 1 or 14 were not disclosed by the prior art of record.

As to claims 4 and 17, the limitations that the identity information is an identity reference identifying an identity claim of the principal, the identity reference having an identity claim value and scheme, and invoking comprises: invoking a findbyidentity method with the identity claim value and scheme as arguments; and under control of the findbyidentity method, searching a principal data store for a principal having the identity claim value and scheme; instantiating a principal object for the principal having the identity claim value and scheme; returning a pointer to the principal object; or, if more than one principal is found in the data store having the identity claim value and scheme, returning an error, taken together with other limitations of claims 1 or 14 were not disclosed by the prior art of record.

As to claim 5, the limitations that the identity information is an identity reference identifying an identity claim of the principal, the identity reference having an identity claim value and scheme, and invoking comprises: invoking a findbyidentity method with the identity claim value as an argument; and under control of the findbyidentity method, searching a principal data store for a principal having the identity claim value with any scheme; instantiating a principal object for the principal having the identity claim value and scheme; returning a pointer to the principal object; or, if more than one principal is found in the data

store having the identity claim value and scheme, returning an error, taken together with other limitations of claim 1 were not disclosed by the prior art of record.

As to claim 6, the limitations that the identity information is an identity reference identifying an identity claim of the principal, the identity reference having an identity claim value and scheme, and invoking comprises: invoking a findbyidentity method with the identity claim value and scheme and a principal type as arguments, the findbyidentity method in an application programming interface of the first object; and under control of the findbyidentity method, searching a principal data store for a principal of the principal type that also has the identity claim value and scheme; instantiating a principal object of the principal type, the principal object having the identity claim value and scheme; returning a pointer to the principal object; or, if more than one principal is found in the data store having the identity claim value and scheme, returning an error, taken together with other limitations of claim 1 were not disclosed by the prior art of record.

As to claim 7, the limitations that the first object is an identity reference object having an identity reference and invoking comprises: invoking a findbyidentity method with the identity reference, the findbyidentity method in an application programming interface of the first object; and under control of the findbyidentity method, searching a principal data store for a principal identified by the identity reference; instantiating a principal object for the principal identified by the identity reference; returning a pointer to the principal object; or, if more than one principal is found in the data store having the identity claim value and scheme, returning an error, taken together with other limitations of claim 1 were not disclosed by the prior art of record.

Claim 19 being further limiting to claim 17 is also objected to.

Art Unit: 2165

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy N. Pardo whose telephone number is 571-272-4082. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 01, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Thuy N. Pardo', with a stylized, cursive script.

THUY N. PARDO
PRIMARY EXAMINER